Eagle Point Historical Society

The Rusty Relic

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APRIL 2005

Museum gets new roof

Medford Roofing Company was the successful bidder on replacing the Long Mountain School-portion of the museum roof. Construction began April 19 and was completed by the end of the week. Many of the shakes were broken and the board felt it was just a matter of time before rain would leak into the school.

Because codes had changed since the museum was last roofed, there was a question if the City of Eagle Point would allow for a shake roof. When Medford Roofing showed them the shakes were fire-retardant, they relented and allowed the roofing to continue.

The new roof has a slightly different exposure, with just seven inches to the weather, as opposed to ten inches on the old. The roofers said that it would make for a better-longer-lasting roof.

There is still useful life in the roof at the back of the building, but it will have to be looked at soon.

Medford Roofing Company replacing the shake roof on the Long Mountain portion of the Museum.

Helen Wolgamott and her crew have the museum looking pretty spiffy on the outside with bright flowers and housekeeping projects. The tree that stood by the handicap ramp has been replaced and moved slightly in anticipation of a paving project in the parking lot.

The Historical Society recently purchased a new riding lawnmower to cut grass at both the museum and Wood House.

The museum is looking really well kept with Helen and crew on the job. Thanks to the efforts of these volunteers, it is a bright and cheerful place.

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Special points of interest:

- In order to minimize bookkeeping members dues will become due in either January or July.
- Those who would have been due between the months of July and December of 2004 are due now.
- Those whose membership dates were between January 1 and June 30 will become due on July 1, 2005
- If you have questions, either drop us a note at p. o. Box 201, Eagle Point, Or. 97524, or send an e-mail to rustyrelic@peoplepc.com.

Wood House events for 2005

Wood House chair, Skip Geear has announced three scheduled events for the structure aimed to capture travelers along Highway 62 this summer.

First will be an Antique Tractor showing on the weekend of May 14-15. included in this display will be a 56,000-lb stationery engine that will be pulled to the site on a huge trailer.

The second will be an antique Military Vehicle showing on May 21. the military museum group from White City will bring a variety of vehicles from by-gone eras to the Wood House to draw people to the site.

Last year, Skip held an art show at the Wood

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Barker resigns Board Position, elections in August

Barker resigns-elections in August

Long Time Board member Sharon Barker has resigned her position on the Board of Trustees effective March 24. Barker had served, on and off, over a period of years. She is heavily involved in the senior Center in Eagle Point and found it difficult to do justice to both organizations. Until August of last year, Barker had been the secretary of the Society.

Barker's board position was due for election during the annual meeting in August so her position will be filled at that time.

Positions 5 (Barker) and 6 (Becky Gecar) are the two open positions for this coming election. Board members all serve three-year terms.

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find a form for a bio if you would like to serve on the board. Fill this out and return as soon as possible to the Historical Society. Bios will be sent to eligible members along with a ballot for the election. Balloting may be either by mail or by casting the ballot in person just prior to the start of the Annual general membership meeting in August. Late ballots unfortunately will not be able to be counted.

Also in this newsletter, you will find a copy of the proposed new by-laws. These were adopted by the bylaws committee in March and approved by the board during the monthly meeting on March 21, 2005.

Please read these over carefully. The entire membership will vote on by laws at the same time as election for board members. You will receive both ballots in the mail in early July. Be certain to return the ballot either by mail or in person at the Annual meeting.

Pride ride comes to Eagle Point

Harley motorcycles will be blocking off the downtown area of Eagle Point on May 15. Called "Pride Ride" by organizers, the bikers will be showing support for our military. The Historical Society is planning a booth at the event.

The city is planning on between 1000 and 2500 motorcycles during the event. Main street will be closed during the event from 9 a. m. to 2 p. m. vendors' booths will line Main Street and we will attempt to have the museum open that day to accommodate the hundreds of visitors that will be coming to the city.

If you have no plans for the day, why not contact Virginia Cutler at 826-4929 and she will find something for you to do at the museum.

Antique Tractor show, Antique Military Vehicle Show, Art show at Wood House

Wood House (continued from page 1)

House during the first weekend of October. Eagle Point Artist, Carl Seyboldt, brought several of the Upper Rogue 's best artists, including Kim Ragsdale, Theresa Schleigh and Thelma Ross, along with several others.

This year, Skip is planning a similar event though the weekend date is not yet confirmed. High visibility along Highway 62 assures a good crowd.

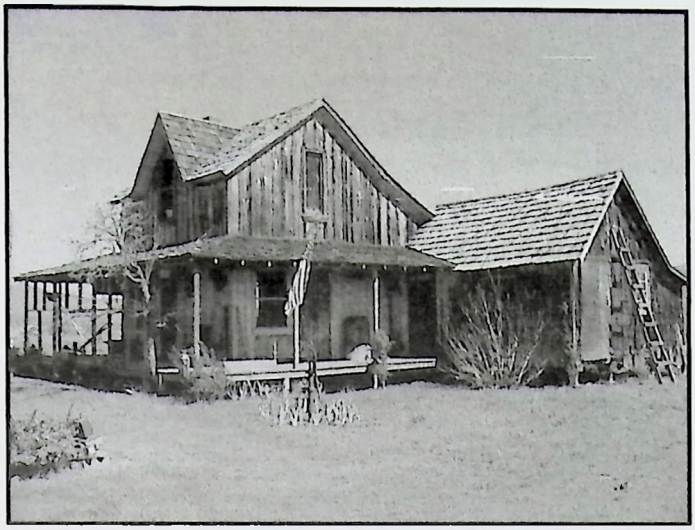
Daffodils in front of Wood House spring 2005.

One of the reasons for events here is to draw attention to the vulnerability of the Wood House. Our lease runs out in 2007 and something must be done to preserve this 1870 house from being bulldozed. If anyone has ideas to help preserve the structure, contact Skip at 826-2177.

New Greeting Cards at Museum

The Historical Society will contract with Trail artist Toni Woolsey to make sets of greeting cards that will be for sale at museum and Wood House events. Three of the photos in this newsletter will be used as the front of cards. Each will have a small piece of the history of the Wood House. They will sell for $2.50 each or a set of five will be $10.00.

Two of the cards are designs by Woolsey, three will be from photos taken recently of the Wood House. The picture at right and those on the bottom of pages 2 and 4 will appear along with two paintings by Woolsey.



Though they appear as gray-scale, the cards will be color.

Five new greetings cards will be available soon at Museum and Wood House events.

Museum needs volunteers

Virginia Cutler needs you. As volunteer coordinator, Virginia is running a little ragged these days. Perhaps you can help her out.

In order to keep the museum open, two volunteers are needed every weekend for a 4-hour shift. The host/hostess greets visitors and shares as much of the history and displays as they know. It is not a demanding job, but must be done. Two people are needed per shift. We are currently open about half as many hours as we would like to be during summer months.

If you can help at the museum or the Wood House, please contact Virginia at 826-4929 or Skip Geear at 826-2177.

There are many ways to help out with the operations of the historical society. Several people help by their donations, others by gardening, others by sharing the history of the area.

If you can help at the museum or Wood House, contact Virginia Cutler at 826-4929

A sad note—Dick Berger passes

One of our volunteers has passed away. Dick Berger, long-time member and reliable volunteer passed away on April 15 at his home. Dick and Alice hosted people to the museum once each month. Dick loved things historical and loved to share with others. He particularly loved sharing experiences and artifacts that he had found.

Dick was a gentle man, who loved to talk with others and he loved learning everything he could about anything of interest.

The family plans a memorial to his life at their ranch on Mountain View Road north of Eagle Point on Sunday, May 15, beginning at 2 p. m.

Memorial for Dick Berger is at the family home on Sunday, May 15, beginning at 2 p. m.

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Bringing History alive in the Rogue Valley

Big Butte Historical Society
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Butte Falls, Or 97522

We'll soon be on the web.

The Prophetic Pear Tree

Several years ago, artist Carl Seyboldt had a group of his students at the Wood House. While they were working, a lady drove up who claimed to be a relative of Walter Wood.

According to Seyboldt, the lady told him the story of Walter Wood's impending death. Walter told relatives that he would not die until the last pear had fallen from the pathetic little pear tree that is seen here.

As summer wore on, both began to fail. And finally, on September 9, 1974, the last pear fell from the tree and the very same day, Walter died, proving that one or the other was truly prophetic.

Following his death, Walter's former housekeeper lived in the house for a period of 10 years, then sold the property to a California land speculator.

During the restoration process, crews carefully avoided harming the tree in any way.

Despite age and neglect, the tree still bears fruit every fall.